

the first user requesting the server to deliver a call back request to a second
5 user;
the server sending the call back request to the second user;
the server prompting the second user whether to call the first user back;
the second user optionally signaling acceptance of the call back request to
the server; and
10 if the second user signals to accept the call back request, the server
automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

D3
Cancelled

2. (Twice Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: the server using a separate packet-based network to determine if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: the server bypassing call toll charges by using a packet-based network for the sending of call back requests.

4. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, in which the server initiates a call from a device of the second user to a device of the first user.

D3
Cancelled

5. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user's request for a call back is sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile.

6. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the prompt is provided to the second user on a telephone display.

*DS
wrcld*
7. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user uses a voice mail system to request the call back.

8. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a connection between the first user and the second user for a predetermined period of time;

5 wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the first user.

9. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the first user is provided with the option of placing a message in a voice mail system if the call back request is refused.

*DS
wrcld*
10. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein a personal digital assistant is used by the first user to request the call back.

*DS
wrcld*
11. (Thrice Amended) A system for providing an automated call connection comprising:
a first user input device for initiating and sending a call back request;
a second user output device for receiving the call back request; and
a server for transferring the call back request from the first user output device to the second user output device and for prompting the second user whether to call back the first user, and, if the second user signals to the network connection to return the call, for automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

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12. (Twice Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the server connects to a separate packet-based network, the separate packet-based network determining if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

13. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 12, wherein call toll charges are bypassed through use of the packet-based network.

14. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user input device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

15. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the second user output device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

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16. (Twice Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user's call back request is sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile device.

17. CANCELED

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18. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user uses a voice mail system to request the call back.

19. (Original) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the network connection is maintained for a